

12 December 2017
YOU'RE INVITED!



Youth Ministry Event

**Decorate the Church for
Christmas!**
Refreshing refreshments!
**Reflecting Advent
Reflections!**
**Faith, Food, Fun
&
Alliteration!**

Click [here](#) to RSVP

JRYA CHRISTMAS
PARTY!

20 December 2017

6:30 Parish House

Bring a friend!



NPACC high school Youth Ministry

Advent, Christmas, New Year, Retreats, Service,
Retreats, Service, and ...



Camp Victory is the location for this year's Senior Youth Alive Retreat. It is a Christian camping and retreat facility on the Zumbro River

From the Desk of Laura Schoenecker: JESUS OTHERS YOU

This Sunday will be the 3rd Sunday of Advent. It is also known as Gaudete Sunday, which signifies JOY! You may notice this is the week we light the pink candle and our priests wear rose colored vestments instead of purple. It is a time to rejoice as we prepare for the coming of Christ!

Ho-hum... we've done this so many times before that it can become routine, mundane, and even a hassle! Shopping, wrapping, eating, returning, cleaning, decorating, food preparations... well, you know, the list can be endless.... we lose sight of what this season is truly about... Yup, **GUILTY!**

But what if we were to focus on the word **JOY** in the proper order... The reason we celebrate Christmas, (Christ's Mass), in the first place – **Jesus**. What if trying to do his will in our lives was our priority; would that bring us joy? What if we really looked at the great gift of Christ humbling himself from King to lowly baby... all for us. Would that give a greater, truer meaning to our Christmas?

How can we bring joy to **Others?** At our Baptism, we are all called to discipleship. How can we know the love, hope, and joy of Christ and not share it with others in our lives? We can do this by our words, but also by our example. Putting Jesus, and then others, before ourselves will bring us a joy in Him that will remain steadfast throughout sad and unhappy times in our lives.

Finally, us! We are the child of a King. We must treat ourselves (and others) with the dignity and respect that is required of royalty. God loved you into being, and put you here for a purpose. Search to find his will for your life and you will find joy for **yourself**. Jesus became lowly and entered our world to show us the way back to our Father. This is what we celebrate at Christmas, the ultimate gift of love. That small babe in the manger is where we will find, hope, love, **JOY** and peace. **Blessings!**

Tips for Making a Good Retreat:

Be Open:

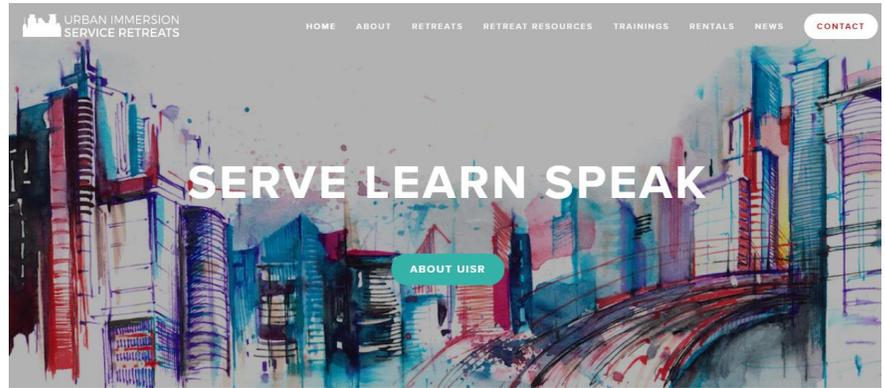
Make room for grace – allow God to work in your life and provide you with what you need during your retreat.

Pray:

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”
~Matthew 7:7

Go:

“There are many ways of going forward, but only one way of standing still.”
— Franklin D. Roosevelt



**NEW: Junior Youth Alive Service Retreat
@ Urban Immersion Service Retreats
When: April 13- 15, 2018**

What is Urban Immersion?

Who We Are

Urban Immersion Service Retreats (UISR) is a program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches that creates and facilitates retreats focused on educating participants about the complexities of poverty through a lens of faith and service in their community.

What We Do

We seek change: from going on mission trips to living the mission, from ignoring poverty to effecting a positive response. We educate and empower people of all ages to be change-makers in their community. Through our retreats and trainings, we create a deeper understanding of the complexities of poverty through team building activities and critical reflection.

Senior Retreat? When's that?

The Senior Youth Alive Retreat is an annual retreat designed specifically for graduating seniors, focusing on spirituality and community-building. This year it will be February 17-18. Students spend the weekend at Camp Victory (transportation provided) to reflect, discuss their personal faith, and participate in a series of talks and activities. The retreat will cover such topics as maintaining faith after high school, having a relationship with God, relying on God, and relating to one's peers.

Also included: Tubing, Snow Shoes, Ping Pong, FOOD, camp fires, FUN!
Contact Pamela for more information!

Contact Us

Pamela Sherlock
Street Address
215 E Main St
City, ST Zip Code
New Prague, MN 56071
Phone
952.758.0477
Email
pamela.sherlock@npcatholic.org
Website
npcatholic.org

¡Feliz fiesta de
Nuestra Señora de
Guadalupe! Que
Nuestra Señora
siempre ore por
usted, y que ella les
recuerde a cuidar a
todos los
marginados.
Happy Feast of
Our Lady of
Guadalupe! May
Our Lady always
pray for you, and
remind you to care
for all those on the
margins.



Are you interested in mission
this summer? Do you want to
serve locally? Contact [Pamela](#)
for more information ~

DECEMBER 17, 2017



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ISAIAH 61:1-2A, 10-11

LUKE 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

REFLECTION

Today's Gospel introduces us to John the Baptist. John was a traveling preacher whose central message was one of preparation. Many people thought that perhaps John was Elijah or the Messiah, but he was quick to correct them. Rather, he was "the voice of one crying out in the desert, / 'Make straight the way of the Lord'" (v. 23).

If the Gospel were a theater production, John would be Jesus' tech crew, the ones behind the scenes, making sure everything is ready for the actors. He said to everyone he encountered, "It's not about me! I'm working hard to set the stage for the real Messiah—the one who will bring about the Reign of God and save all of us. So get ready!" John wasn't afraid to get into the challenging, often messy business of sharing the Good News with everyone he met.

"He was not the light, but came to testify to the light" (John 1:8). John knew that Jesus was the one who needed to be in the spotlight. He dedicated his whole life to helping people create a welcoming space for Jesus in their hearts. He filled people with anticipation and gave them something to hope for. And when John plunged Jesus into the Jordan River at his baptism, he knew that it was time to step back and let Jesus shine.

ACTION

In just over a week, we will celebrate the birth of our Lord at Christmas. Pick one thing that you can do (for example, offering an extra prayer for someone who needs it, sharing a word of kindness with a person who is struggling, or foregoing a luxury like coffee to donate to a charity), and commit to doing it every day between now and Christmas.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- How have you been preparing your heart and our world this Advent for the arrival of Christ?
- What can you do in your life to set the stage for Christ's coming?
- What effect might this have on you and those around you?